

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 11739 311023Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00
DODE-00 NSC-05 /080 W
-----050238 311025Z /10

R 310940Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3957
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY

UNCLAS ATHENS 11739

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MORG, NATO, SOPN, GR, TU
SUBJECT: AFSOUTH COMMAND CHANGE

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAND AND AIR FORCE NATO COMMAND CHANGES
AT IZMIR WAS FEATURED ON GREEK TV/RADIO EVENING DEC 30 AND
CARRIED AS HEADLINE STORY IN ALL ATHENS DAILY NEWSPAPERS MORNING
DEC 31. COVERAGE GIVES PROMINENCE TO GENERAL HAIG'S EXPLANATORY
COMMENTS, BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS, AS WELL AS TO COMPANION
GREEK DEFENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT (QUOTED BELOW). WE WILL
SUMMARIZE EDITORIAL COMMENT WHEN AVAILABLE.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN CARRIES FOLLOWING
TEXT OF GREEK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED LATE
DEC 30: "NATO'S DECISION TO PLACE THE SMYRNA (SIC) COMMAND
UNDER TURKISH LEADERSHIP DOES NOT CONCERN GREECE. GREECE WITHDREW
FROM THE SMYRNA COMMAND IN THE SUMMER OF 1974, AND HAS STATED SHE
DOES NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO IT. THIS CHANGE OF COMMAND DOES NOT
INFLUENCE GREECE'S POSITION, WHICH AIMS AT CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN
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THE GREEK ARMED FORCES UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND AND, SO FAR AS
OPERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE CONCERNED, THE SMYRNA COMMAND
CONSTITUTES AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE ALLIANCE'S MILITARY WING,
AND HAS NO RELATION TO THE CONTROL OF THE GREEK LAND, SEA
AND AIR TERRITORY."
MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REORGANIZATIONS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS11739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-0293
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaatg.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6be220fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 101687
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFSOUTH COMMAND CHANGE
TAGS: MORG, SOPN, PORG, GR, TU, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6be220fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009